

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending and claims 6-9 and 16-22 are withdrawn from consideration. Applicants gratefully acknowledge that the Office Action indicates that claims 1-5 are allowed and 11-13 contain allowable subject matter.

By this Amendment, claims 10, 11, and 12 are amended. Allowable dependent claims 11 and 12 are amended into independent form by incorporating the amended subject matter of claim 10. Further, the specification is also amended. No new matter is added.

Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiner Heinz at the personal interview held on October 19, and the telephone interviews held on November 14 and 15, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated in the remarks below and constitute the record of the interview.

I. Objection to the Specification

The Office Action objects to the title. The title of the invention is amended to obviate the objection.

The Office Action objects to the Abstract. The Abstract is amended to obviate the objection. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection to the specification.

II. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 10, 14, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Nakamura. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Nakamura does not disclose or suggest a return yoke layer for returning a magnetic flux emitted from the magnetic pole layer to the recording medium, as recited in independent claim 10. The Examiner, during the personal and telephone interviews, acknowledged that

Nakamura does not disclose or suggest the above mentioned features of claim 10.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that independent claim 10 defines patentable subject matter.

Claims 14 and 15 depend from independent claim 10, and therefore, also define patentable subject matter as well as for the other features they recite.

The Office Action has indicated that claims 1-5 are allowed, and claims 11-13 contain allowable subject matter. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

Further, rejoinder of claims 6-9 and 11-22 is earnestly solicited.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-22 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Bogdan A. Zinchenko
Registration No. 57,473

JAO:BAZ/tje

Date: November 22, 2005

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
--